

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 AID-05 /094 W  
-----031374 161243Z /10

R 141630Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3181  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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LONDON FOR SEITZ

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, PGOV, GH  
SUBJ: ARREST OF OPPOSITION LEADERS IN GHANA

REF: ACCRA 2453

1. SUMMARY: GOG HAS PUBLISHED A LIST OF 17 OPPOSITION  
LEADERS TARGETED FOR ARREST. RUMORS HERE ASSERT THAT MANY  
OTHER DISSIDENTS ARE ALSO UNDER ARREST OR ARE BEING  
SOUGHT, BUT NO HARD FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A PREVENTIVE CUSTODY ORDER DATED APRIL 5 BUT PUBLISHED  
ON APRIL 13, GOG AUTHORIZED ARREST OF 17 PEOPLE, ALL OF WHOM  
ARE BELIEVED TO BE LEADERS OF PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT FOR FREEDOM  
AND JUSTICE (PFMJ) OR OF OTHER GROUPS OPPOSED TO HEAD OF STATE  
ACHEAMPONG AND HIS UNION GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS  
ENDORSED IN A DISPUTED REFERENDUM MARCH 30. LIST IS AS FOLLOWS:

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3. DR. K. SAFO-ADU, MR. QUAYE MENSAH, MR. K.A. GBEDEMA,  
MR. WILLIAM OFORI ATTA, MR. A.K. DEKU, MR. D.A. LARTEY,  
MR. SAM OKUDJETOE, MR. B.J. DA ROCHA, MR. P.K.K. QUAIDOO,  
MR. VICTOR OWUSU, MR. OBENG MANU, MR. T.D. BRODIE MENDS,  
MR. A.K. ADU AMANKWA, MR. E.R.T. MADJITEY, MR. F.E. JANTUAH,  
ALHAJI SHANI MAHAMA, MR. R.I. ALHASSAN.

4. IT IS WIDELY RUMORED HERE THAT MANY OTHER DISSIDENTS ARE ALSO BEING HELD OR ARE BEING SOUGHT. ESTIMATES, WHICH PROBABLY INCLUDE ABOVE LIST, RANGE FROM ABOUT 40 TO PERHAPS 150, BUT WE HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE ON THIS SCORE. WE THINK THERE IS AT LEAST SOME TRUTH TO RUMORS BECAUSE CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHOM WE KNOW TO BE UNDER ARREST, SUCH AS PMFJ PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER G.W. AMARETIFIO, ARE NOT ON THIS LIST. OTHERS, SUCH AS PMFJ LEADER A.A. AFRIFA, ARE NOT ON LIST BUT ARE POSSIBLY BEING SOUGHT.

5. GOG HAS NOT REVEALED SPECIFIC OFFENSES WHICH DETAINEES ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE COMMITTED. (UNDER GHANA'S PREVENTIVE CUSTODY LAWS, PERSONS NEED NOT BE CHARGED WITH SPECIFIC OFFENSES BUT ARE HELD BECAUSE, TO QUOTE TEXT OF EXECUTIVE INSTRUMENT GIVING 17 NAMES ABOVE, GOG DECIDES THAT "IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE SAFETY OF SUCH PERSONS" TO DETAIN THEM). BEFORE REFERENDUM, ACHEAMPONG SPOKE OF A PLOT TO DISRUPT VOTING BY CUTTING OFF WATER, ELECTRICITY AND GASOLINE SUPPLIES (REFTEL). GOG MAY BELIEVE THAT DETAINEES WERE INVOLVED IN THIS ALLEGED PLOT. IT SEEMS SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT ARRESTS ARE DESIGNED TO PREVENT POST-REFERENDUM STRIKES AND TO INTIMIDATE POLITICAL OPPOSITION.

6. AT THIS POINT WE CANNOT PREDICT HOW LONG DETAINEES MAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE HELD. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, THEY COULD BE HELD INDEFINITELY BUT WE SPECULATE THAT IF LOCAL CONDITIONS REMAIN CALM, GOG MAY RELEASE SOME OF THEM BEFORE TOO LONG. HOWEVER, SHOULD WIDESPREAD STRIKES OR OTHER DISTURBANCES OCCUR, GOG WOULD PROBABLY DECIDE TO KEEP ITS OPPONENTS BEHIND BARS FOR A WHILE LONGER. SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARRESTS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PREVENTIVE DETENTION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ACCRA03006  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780163-0744  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780456/aaaabvkl.tel  
**Line Count:** 100  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** dfaa01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 ACCRA 2453  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2966617  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARREST OF OPPOSITION LEADERS IN GHANA  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PINT, PINS, PGOV, GH, PFMJ, PEOPLES MOVMT FOR FREEDOM & JUSTICE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014